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To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
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Name * Drew Harper

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Provide the docket's number. 25-145

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I am writing to express extreme disappointment with Xcel Energy's decision to request approval for two new natural gas-fired turbines.

First, this proposal is inconsistent with the intent of Minnesota's 2040 carbon-free electricity standard. That law was designed to move the state decisively away from fossil fuel dependence, not to authorize new long-lived gas infrastructure that will continue emitting greenhouse gases well beyond 2040. Building new gas capacity now undermines the spirit and credibility of that commitment.

Second, approving these turbines would lock Minnesota into decades of additional environmental and climate damages. Natural gas facilities are not short-term solutions; they are capital-intensive investments that utilities expect to operate for many decades. At a time when climate impacts are already imposing real costs on communities, ratepayers, and ecosystems, it is troubling to pursue new infrastructure that prolongs fossil fuel reliance rather than accelerating the transition away from it.

Finally, this decision is increasingly difficult to justify on cost grounds. Renewable electricity paired with battery storage continues to set new low price benchmarks and is widely projected to provide lower-cost electricity than new fossil generation. These resources also offer flexibility, scalability, and speed that gas plants cannot match. As electricity demand grows—particularly from large new loads such as data centers—clean energy and storage are far more likely to protect customers from volatile fuel costs and rising electricity bills than new gas-fired turbines.

Minnesotans expect Xcel Energy to lead in delivering reliable, affordable, and truly clean electricity. I urge the PUC to reject this permit and certificate of need and instead prioritize solutions that align with state law, protect customers from long-term costs, and avoid locking us into unnecessary environmental and climate harm.

Thank you,
Drew Harper
